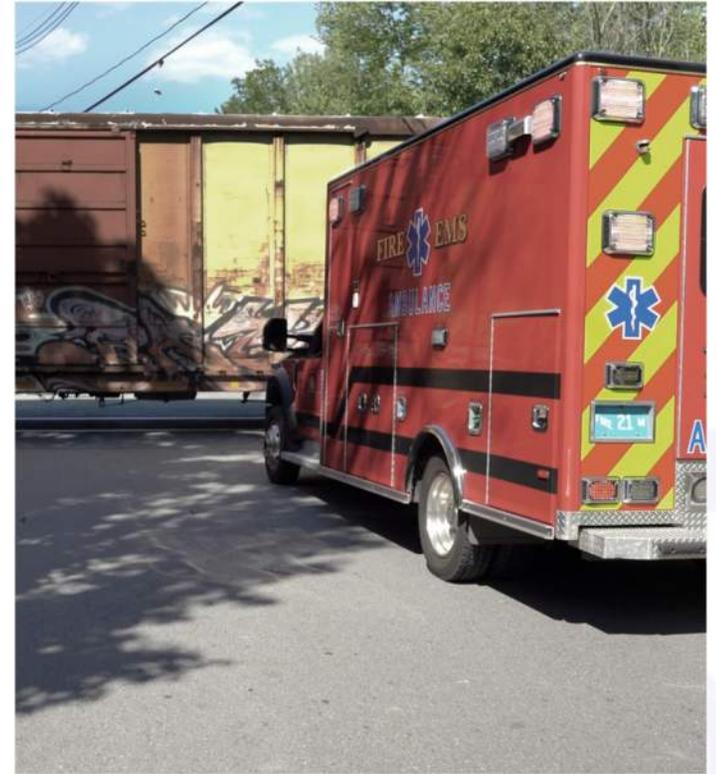
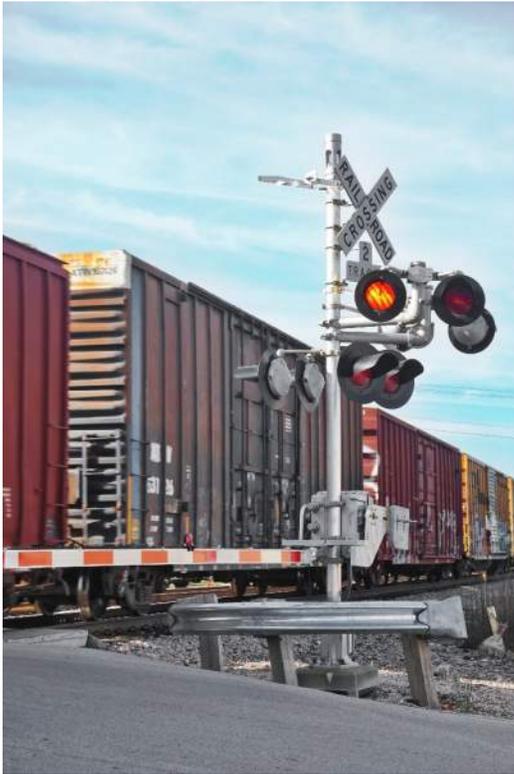


Hammond Local Trax Norfolk Southern Railroad Grade Separation Project

Public Hearing | April 26, 2023



Decades Old Problem



Your Neighborhood Survey Results

- Survey questions to residents within the boundary of 165th Street, Kennedy Avenue, Grand Avenue, and I-80/I-94

60%

impacted by
stopped trains at
least once per day

83%

somewhat strong or
very strong that the
City of Hammond
needs to address
the issue

75%

somewhat or
strongly in favor of a
new bridge

63%

somewhat or
strongly in favor of a
new bridge at the
new terrain
alignment location

Received over 600 responses

**We invite you to be part
of these necessary
improvements
to your community.**



Public Hearing Agenda

- Team Introduction
- Need and Purpose
- Project Development Process
- Public Involvement Process
- Alternatives Considered
- Preferred Alternative Details
- How You Can Help



Team Introduction



Project Team



Jason Holder
Project Manager
INDOT



Cassy Bajek
LaPorte District
Public Relations Director
INDOT



Dean Button, PE
City Engineer
City of Hammond



Nick Batta, PE
Design Lead



Jeff Picker, PE, SE
Roadway Designer



Project Team

- Design Team

- Marion Wells
- Alexandra Zelles
- Mitchell Murray
- Derek Hammond
- Ally Fields
- Qasim Asghar

- ASL Interpreter

- Tradewinds

- Spanish Interpreter

- LUNA Language Services



Need and Purpose



Need and Purpose

Need



Vehicular and pedestrian exposure to trains at at-grade railroad crossings



Stopped trains blocking numerous at-grade crossings



Better EMS response times due to stopped trains

Purpose



Provide reliable transportation access across the Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR)



Improve safety at the at-grade railroad crossings



Reduce vehicular, pedestrian, and EMS delays as a result of the at-grade railroad crossings in the Hessville area

Stopped Trains and EMS Response Times

- City of Hammond Fire Station Study noted that Station 8 needs to service both sides of the railroad crossing.

nearly
20 minutes

current EMS
response times
from Station 8 with
stopped trains

6 minutes

response time
with a new
overpass

a new overpass will add
5,701 citizens
to the Station 8 response area

Fire Station

School

Park
Recreation



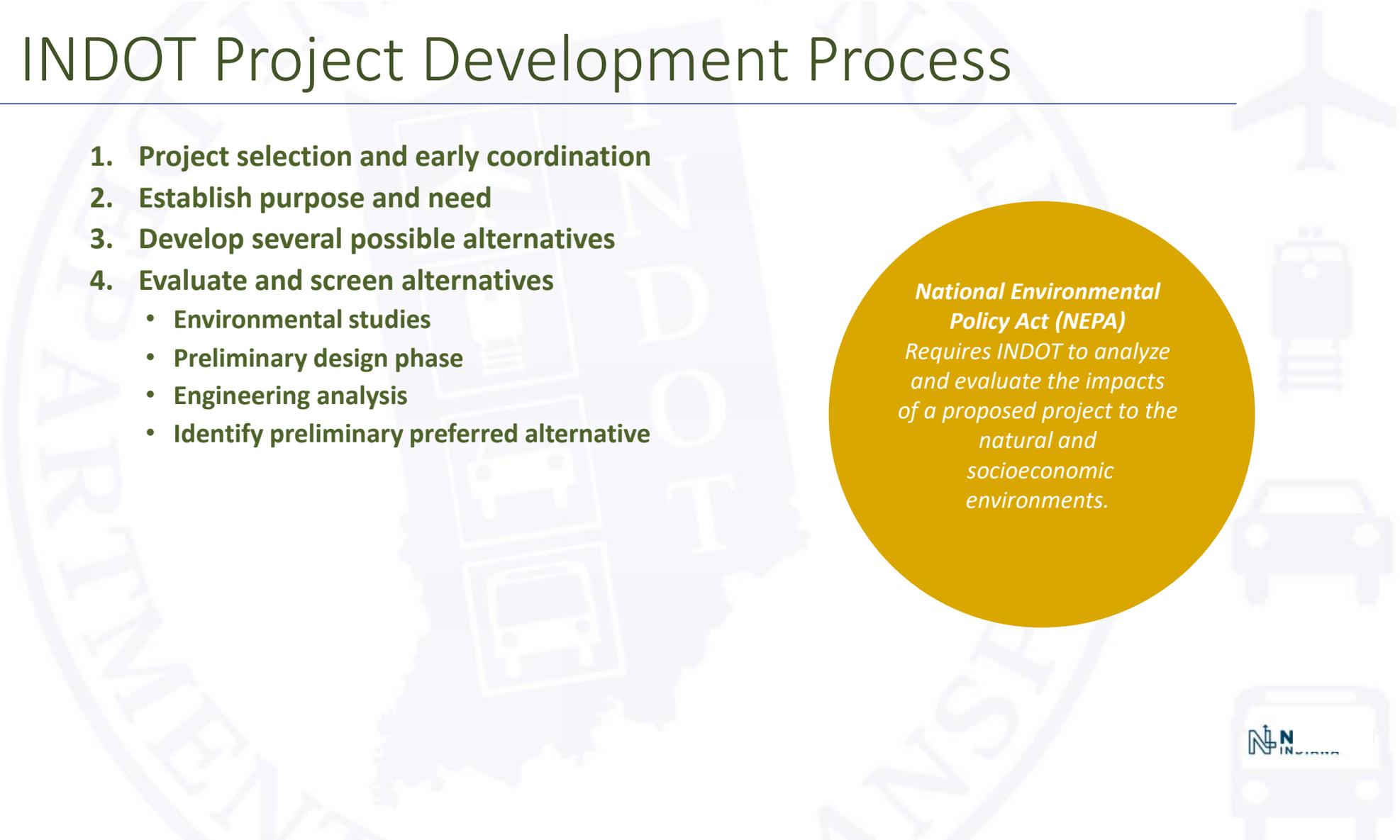
Project Development Process



INDOT Project Development Process

1. Project selection and early coordination
2. Establish purpose and need
3. Develop several possible alternatives
4. Evaluate and screen alternatives
 - Environmental studies
 - Preliminary design phase
 - Engineering analysis
 - Identify preliminary preferred alternative

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Requires INDOT to analyze and evaluate the impacts of a proposed project to the natural and socioeconomic environments.



INDOT Project Development Process

1. Project selection and early coordination
2. Establish purpose and need
3. Develop several possible alternatives
4. Evaluate and screen alternatives
 - Environmental studies
 - Preliminary design phase
 - Engineering analysis
 - Identify preliminary preferred alternative
- 5. Solicit public comment on environmental document and preliminary design plan**
- 6. Address and consider public comment**

We
Are
Here

***National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**
Requires INDOT to analyze and evaluate the impacts of a proposed project to the natural and socioeconomic environments.*



INDOT Project Development Process

1. Project selection and early coordination
2. Establish purpose and need
3. Develop several possible alternatives
4. Evaluate and screen alternatives
 - Environmental studies
 - Preliminary design phase
 - Engineering analysis
 - Identify preliminary preferred alternative
5. Solicit public comment on environmental document and preliminary design plan
6. Address and consider public comment
7. **Finalize and approve environmental document and project design**
8. **Communicate final decision**
9. **Land acquisition**
10. **Obtain permits**
11. **Final design**
12. **Construction**
13. **Open to traffic**

We
Are
Here

**National Environmental
Policy Act (NEPA)**
*Requires INDOT to analyze
and evaluate the impacts
of a proposed project to the
natural and
socioeconomic
environments.*

Public Involvement Process



Public Involvement Activities To Date

Early Coordination with Key Stakeholders

- INDOT Departments
- US Fish and Wildlife
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Federal Highway Administration
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- City of Hammond Engineering
- City of Hammond Police
- City of Hammond Fire and EMS
- City of Hammond MS4 (Stormwater)
- Local Utility Companies



Public Involvement Activities To Date



Notices of Entry to Property Owners

April 2019
November 2021



Hammond Mayor's Night Out

December 8, 2021
January 4, 2023



Neighborhood Survey

November 2021



FHWA Finding No Adverse Effects to Historic Properties or Sites

Legal notice in
Northwest Indiana Times
January 24, 2022



Public Hearing Advertisements

Legal notice mailed to adjacent property owners/other stakeholders
Social media posts from INDOT/City of Hammond
Legal notice in the Northwest Indiana Times
April 11, 2023, and April 18, 2023



Spanish Speaking Outreach

Legal notice published in Spanish
Project handout available in Spanish
Spanish translator available tonight

Alternatives Considered



Screening of Locations



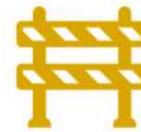
Business Impacts



Residential Impacts



Visual Impacts



Construction Costs



**Proximity to EMS
& Schools**



Traffic Volumes



Cemetery Impacts



**Tree Removal
Impacts & Planting**

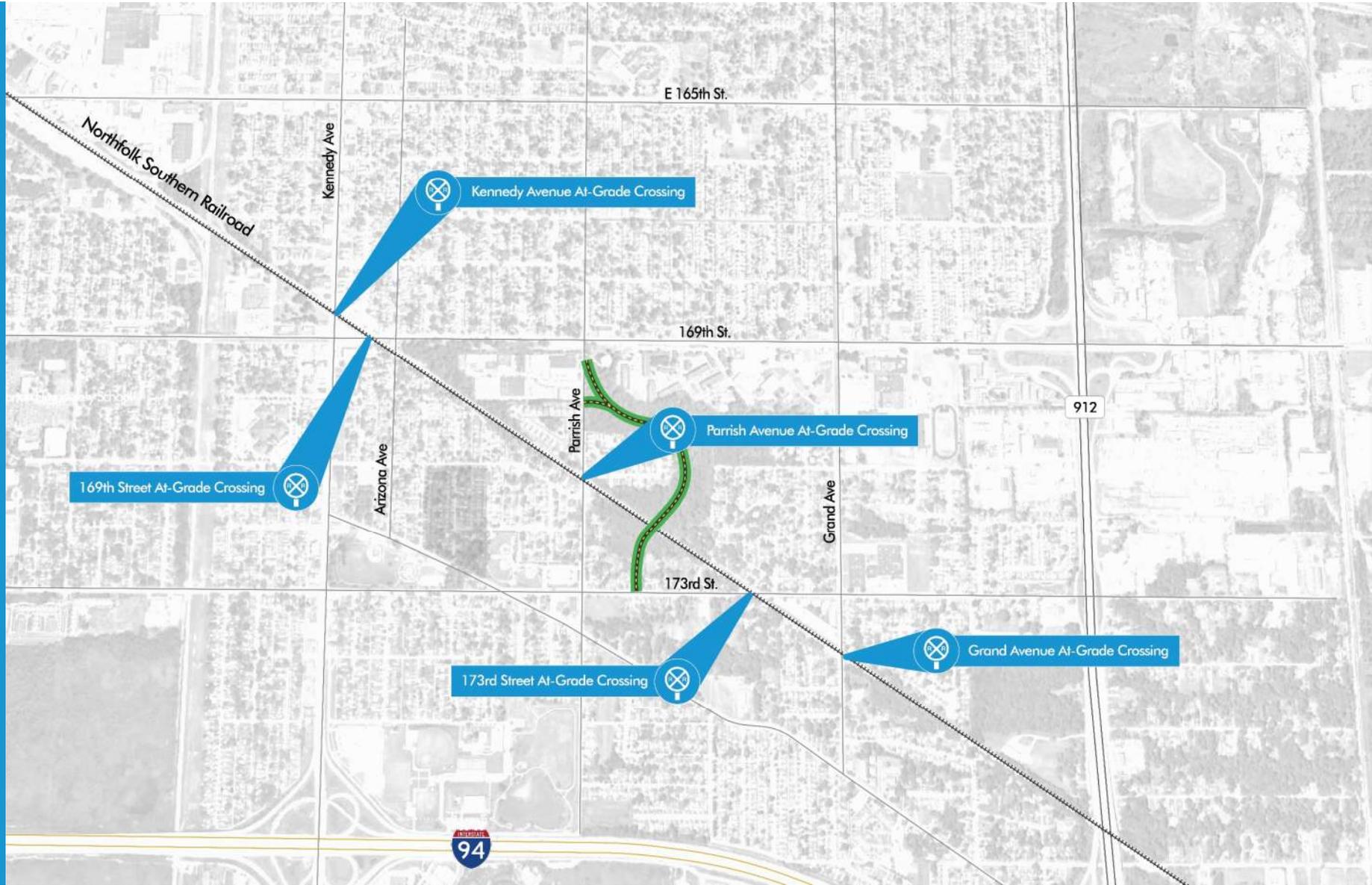


Wetlands Impacts



**Environmental
Justice Impacts**

Locations for Consideration



Locations for Consideration

Kennedy Avenue

Existing Daily Traffic Volumes **14,890**

Construction Cost Estimates (2019) **\$12,230,000**

Commercial Relocations within EJ Community **21**

Residential Relocations within EJ Community **0**



- Least helpful for children walking to school
- St. Mary's & North Township Cemetery relocation ●

169th Street

Existing Daily Traffic Volumes **11,240**

Construction Cost Estimates (2019) **\$14,100,000**

Commercial Relocations within EJ Community **8**

Residential Relocations within EJ Community **4**

Locations for Consideration

Parrish Avenue

Existing Daily Traffic Volumes	3,500
Construction Cost Estimates (2019)	\$10,290,000
Commercial Relocations within EJ Community	0
Residential Relocations within EJ Community	13



Parrish Avenue Underpass

Existing Daily Traffic Volumes	3,500
Construction Cost Estimates (2019)	\$15,000,000
Commercial Relocations within EJ Community	0
Residential Relocations within EJ Community	13

Locations for Consideration

173rd Street

Existing Daily Traffic Volumes **1,860**

Construction Cost Estimates (2019) **\$8,870,000**

Commercial Relocations within EJ Community **0**

Residential Relocations within EJ Community **6**



– Greenbriar Apartments would lose 1/2 entrances

– Orchard Acres would lose 2/3 entrances

Grand Avenue

Existing Daily Traffic Volumes **4,560**

Construction Cost Estimates (2019) **\$8,480,000**

Commercial Relocations within EJ Community **0**

Residential Relocations within EJ Community **9**

Locations for Consideration – Preferred Alternative

New Terrain Alignment

Existing Daily Traffic Volumes	5,600
Construction Cost Estimates (2019)	\$11,670,000
Commercial Relocations within EJ Community	0
Residential Relocations within EJ Community	2
Wetland Impacts	None
Tree Impacts	12.2 Acres



- + Lowest amount of residential relocations
- + Lowest amount of business relocations

- + No cemetery impacts
- + Limited access impacts to dense residential areas
- + Median construction costs
- + Median proximity to neighborhood public schools
- + Fewest relocations within EJ community
- Highest amount of impacts to trees
- Only alternative that impacts a remnant dune

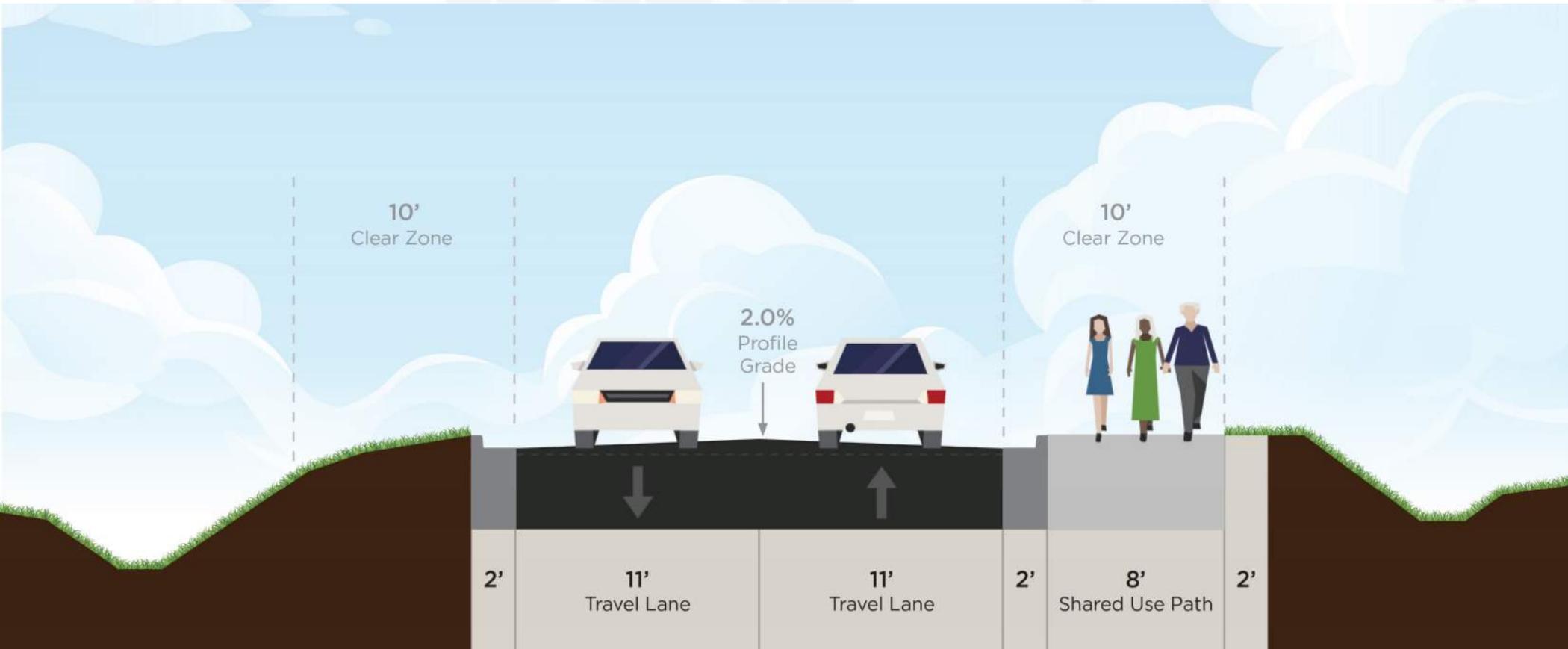
Preliminary Preferred Alternative Details



Renderings



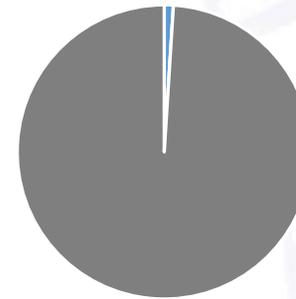
Roadway Details



Stormwater Control

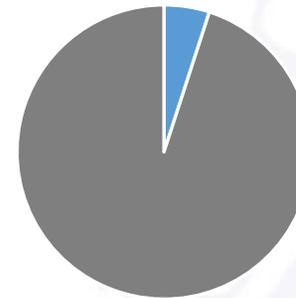
- Project will add 3.4 acres of new paved area to help drain water from streets
- Proposed 6 new detention basins
 - 7.42 acre-feet of storage volume
 - Discharge to city's storm sewer of 5.8 cubic feet per second for a 100-year storm event
 - Only 5% of pipe's total capacity during the highest rain volume

Normal Amount of Rain



■ Usage ■ Capacity Left

Massive Amount of Rain



■ Usage ■ Capacity Left



Construction Sequencing

Phase 1

build new terrain portions with minimal impact to traveling public

Phase 2

build new intersection with 173rd Street
lane shifts needed along 173rd Street

Phase 3

close and detour Parrish Avenue to build tie-in with new Governors Parkway
detour would use 169th Street to Grand Avenue to 173rd Street

Permanent Railroad Crossing Closures

Parrish Avenue

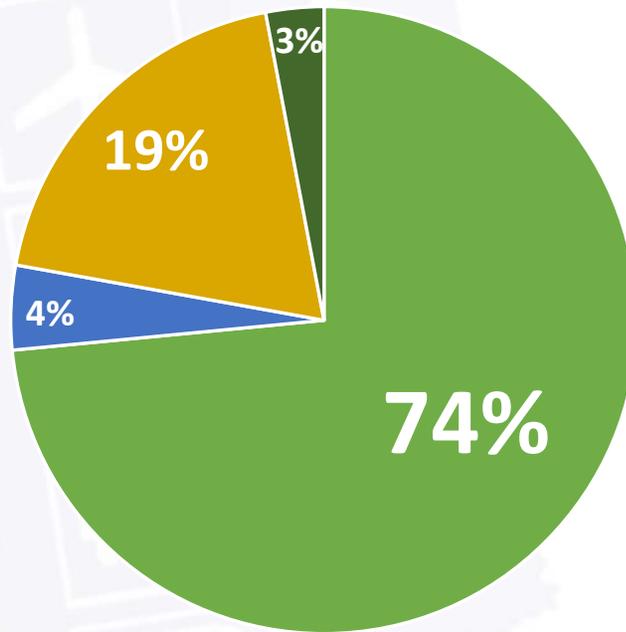


Arizona Avenue



- Crossing surface removed to both vehicles and pedestrians
- Signs and guardrail added

Project Cost – Estimates



■ Construction = \$10,261,400

■ Right of Way = \$608,180

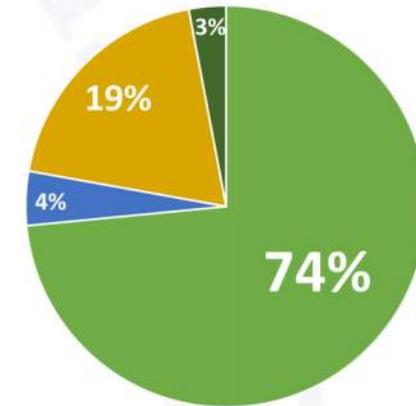
■ Inspection and Engineering = \$2,679,200

■ Railroad Coordination = \$417,800



Project Costs

- **INDOT – Local Trax Program**
 - 100% of design and inspection
 - Up to 78% of land acquisition
 - Up to 78% of railroad coordination
 - Up to 78% of construction
- **Norfolk Southern Railroad**
 - Up to 5% of project costs per Indiana Statute
- **City of Hammond**
 - Remaining costs



■ Construction = \$10,261,400
■ Right of Way = \$608,180
■ Inspection and Engineering = \$2,679,200
■ Railroad Coordination = \$417,800

**LOCAL
TRAX** Rail Overpass
Program

Project Environmental Impacts

Preferred alternative will have no negative impacts on

- Wetlands and streams
- Floodways
- Historical properties
- Noise increases
 - Projected noise increases of 11.5 dB(A)
 - Increases of 15 dB(A) considered as negatively impacted



Project Environmental Impacts

Environmental Impact	Mitigation Effort
<p>May affect but not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat and Northern long-eared bat</p> <p>May affect migratory birds</p>	<p>Tree removal only during October–March to avoid species’ migration and nesting times</p>
<p>13.0 acres of terrestrial habitat impacted (including 12.2 acres of trees cleared)</p>	<p>INDOT and Hammond will fund \$228,238 to the Student Conservation Association/CommuniTree to replant approximately 24 acres of trees</p> <p>Consideration for plantings to screen railroad and/or new roadway</p>
<p>Two residential relocations</p>	<p>City of Hammond’s program for compensation to relocate within city limits</p>
<p>No wetlands impacted</p>	<p>At the request of others, conducting additional fieldwork related to wetlands at targeted areas</p>
<p>Environmental Justice</p>	<p>Encourage comments from property owners and renters that will be impacted by the project and/or use the wooded area for recreation</p>

Schedule



How You Can Help



How You Can Help



Attend the public hearing



Watch the recorded presentation



Visit the project website



Visit a project resource location

Details on following slides

- Submit comments for the design team to consider
 - In-person tonight, on website, or at a resource location
 - Comments will be published in the approved environmental document
 - Design team will respond to each comment

Project Website

- Environmental Document
- Meeting Exhibits
- Presentation
- Maps
- Project Plans
- Public Comment Form

laporte.indot.in.gov

Indiana Department of Transportation

Welcome to the LaPorte District

NDOT > About NDOT > Central Office > Welcome to the LaPorte District

Matt Deitzley, Deputy Commissioner
315 E. Boyd Blvd.
LaPorte, IN 46350
Toll Free: 855-INDOT4U (663-5848)
[LaPorte District Map](#)

The LaPorte District is responsible for maintaining 5,668 lane miles of state roads, 560 lane miles of interstate, 892 large culverts, 824 state bridges, 170 snow routes, 618 traffic signals, 234 flashers, and 58,600 road signs.

There are five subdistricts (Gary, LaPorte, Monticello, Rensselaer and Plymouth) and 13 counties (Carroll, Cass, Fulton, Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Starke and White) in the northwest Indiana district.

Projects

- [Governors Parkway Railroad Overpass in Hammond](#)
- [U.S. 6 Bridge Project at Muck Pocket](#)
- [U.S. 6 at US 421 East Junction Intersection Improvement](#)
- [SR 912 and Michigan Avenue Bridges Project](#)
- [SR 912 Roadway and Ramp Project](#)
- [Kentucky Ave - Roadway Project](#)
- [SR 149 at Robbins Rd. Intersection Improvement](#)

LaPorte District is responsible for maintaining traffic signals, 234 flashers, and 58,600 road signs.

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- [SR 149 at Robbins Rd. Intersection Improvement](#)
- [U.S. 6 at S.R. 2 Intersection Improvement](#)
- [SR 14 over Gaff Ditch Bridge Project in Newton County](#)
- [SR 14 Roadway Improvements in Fulton and Plymouth Counties](#)
- [SR 14 over Wildcat Creek Bridge Project in Newton County](#)

Project Resource Locations

- **Hammond City Hall**
5925 Calumet Avenue
Hammond, IN 46320
- **Jean Shepherd Community Center**
3031 J.F. Mahoney Drive
Hammond, IN 46323
- **Purdue University Northwest Library**
2200 169th Street
Hammond, IN 46323
- Resources available through May 26
when comment period ends
 - Environmental document
 - Project plans
 - Public comment form



Submit Formal Public Comments

- **Submit formal public comments using these options:**

- Public Comment Form
 - Complete tonight and hand to project team member
 - Form found on website and at resource locations
 - Instructions on how to submit are included on sheet
- Verbal Comments
 - Participate during public comment session tonight

- **INDOT respectfully requests comments by May 26, 2023**

- All comments submitted are included in the public hearing transcript and made part of public record
- Comments are reviewed, evaluated, and given full consideration during decision-making process

There will be no live Q&A tonight.



Public Comment Session



Submitting Comments

**Comment Deadline:
May 26, 2023**



<http://laporte.indot.in.gov/>



Nick Batta (Crawford, Murphy & Tilly)

✉ nbatta@cmtengr.com

📍 8790 Purdue Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Hammond Local Trax Norfolk Southern Railroad Grade Separation Project

Public Hearing | April 26, 2023



 **NextLevel**
INDIANA